Food security

1678. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of "food security" as vital welfare measure is being received by Government to ensure that the rate of foodgrains production meets the requirements of an ever growing population, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 19th February, 1995;

(b) whether Government are aware that they have not been able to meet the minimum calories needs of nearly 40 per cent of the country's population;

(c) if so, by when Government would announce the 'Relief Package' to the poor and "expanded programme" of production of high value crops for export and of non food crops for industrial processing; and

(d) whether Government would ensure that there is no short shift on food security in the wake of economic liberalisation and structural reforms besides giving an added push to anti-poverty programmes during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The question of food security in the country is paramount in the making of food policy of the country and the policies are framed to achieve the objectives of food security in the country. During the triennium 1991-93, the average per capita per day availability of energy from available food was 2400 kcal.

Constant efforts are being made for increasing agricultural production of the country. The Government has accorded high priority for expansion of production of horticultural and other high value foodcrops for export and processing. The on-going crop production schemes for the development of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals, etc; have been modified from the year 1994-95 with an objective of increasing overall production and productivity of cereals through development of cropping system as a whole under specified Crop Based Cropping Systems.

Cotton Production

1679. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton production in the country during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) the Minimum Support Price (MSP) during each year;

(c) whether the MSP has not increased each year in proportion to the increase in the cost of production of cotton; and

(d) if so, whether cotton-growers are likely to be allowed to sell their produce at places of their choice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total Cotton production in the country during the last three years is as under:

(in lakh bales of 170 kgs. each)

1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
97.1	114.0	107.1	116.5 (likely)

(b) The MSPs of two basic varieties of cotton, which are fixed by the Gov-